THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process. The National Highway-215 from Rajamunda to Panikoili is kept in traffic worthy condition with the available resource. At present 12 developmental works sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 108.30 crore covering an aggregate length of 81.20 km. are in different stages of implementation. After completion of these works, the condition of this NH will improve substantially.

(b) The entire length of NH-215 has been identified for four-laning under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) phase III on Design Build Finance and Operate (DBFO) basis on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) pattern. Bids were invited during 2008, but no response was received from the prequalified applicants inspite of extension of dates 3 times till 27.01.2009. Re-bidding after restructuring of the project is being envisaged. Completion period of the project may be three years, after the successful award of the work.

TRAI's recommendations on VOIP

*80. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) when were the TRAI recommendations relating to Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) made, since VOIP would further reduces consumer tariffs and would ensure sustainable consumer benefit;

(b) whether Government is aware of recent media reports that certain telecom companies are trying to lobby to delay the acceptance of the TRAI recommendations on VOIP; and

(c) the reasons for such a long delay in accepting these recommendations and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has made *suo-moto* recommendations on 'Issues related to Internet Telephony' on 18th August, 2008 to the Government.

(b) and (c) Although some telecom service providers associations like Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India (AUSPI) . Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) and Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI) have presented their views to the Government on these recommendations, no telecome company has approached the Government for delaying the acceptance of these recommendations of TRAI.

Keeping in view the overall sustainable growth of Indian Telecom Sector, the recommendations of TRAI are being considered by the Government. No final decision has been taken by the Government so far.

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